

Town of Franklin Department of Public Works



Sidewalk Snow Removal Program

January 6th, 2009

Snow Removal Priorities

1. Roadways
2. Public Buildings / Schools
3. Sidewalks

These priorities were established with cooperation of the School and Police Departments.

School Policy on Inclement Weather

What is the parents responsibility?

“On days when the weather is questionable but the schools are open, Please feel free to exercise your parental discretion to keep you child home...”

From the “*Inclement weather and school closing information sheet*”, distributed to all school students and their parents. Also available on the Town’s webpage.

Resources

- Three Snow Removal Machines
- 31 Operators Budgeted
- On 12/28 only 25 operators available

Due to unfilled vacancies, military deployment, worker's compensation. Fewer may be available due to illness, or vacation.



Challenges

- Over 35 miles of sidewalks identified for snow removal operations.
 1. School walking routes
 2. Downtown areas
 3. High traffic / speed routes
- Mother Nature
 1. Timing of Storm
 2. Length of Storm
 3. Type of Snow
 4. Amount of Snow



Time to Clear Sidewalks

- Less than six inches of snow, snow plows are used. *1 day*
- More than six inches of snow, snow blowers are used. *2-3 days*



December 19-20th Snow Storm

- Crews started working 9PM on Sat. night
- Finished at 7PM on Sunday, 22 hours total.
- A total of 18 inches of snow fell.
- Sidewalk removal started @ 4AM on Monday December 21st.
- Completed on Wednesday Dec 23th.
- Total cost of Storm: \$158,050.00

Possible Solutions to Increase Timeliness of Sidewalk Plowing

- Purchase additional sidewalk machines. *(each cost approximately \$120K) (financial decision?)*
- Deployment of Staff. *(collective bargaining issues?)*
- Outsource work. *(finding a contractor?)*
- Require residents to remove snow on sidewalks in front of their property.

Other Options

- Continue to educate the public, particularly parents with school aged children, about the Town's sidewalk snow removal plan.
- Reinforce the School's *Inclement Weather and School Closing policy* to parents of school aged children.
- Educate the Children about the dangers of walking in the roadway.
- Delay or Close schools until the sidewalks are cleared.



**Student walking
in street**

**Recently
installed &
plowed sidewalk**

Picture taken 12/22/2009 @ 2:30PM on Brook St.